

[GEIDAM]

632 turn to their northern villages. A group of Bouzou work at
563 camel transport, and live in a cluster near the slaughter-slab
167 area. Another group of Bouzou work as water-carriers and come
[162] to live in Geldam between agricultural seasons. They all, up
to thirty in number, live in the compound of Lowan Ashek.

632 Lastly a group of pagans are to be found in a small hamlet
621 called Koldi, about 400 yards northwest of the town proper.

[162] There are forty-five households in Koldi, with a total popula-

[622] tion of 134. Koldi has its own Bulama, but Lowan Ashek serves

[651] as the Lowan of Koldi and is responsible for tax collection

632 there. The people of Koldi are largely pagan (kordl), and mem-
621 bers of the following tribes are found there: Banana, Kim, Ka-

563 bam, Ngizim, Kabalia, Mandara, Kotoko, Gwoza and Fulani. Most
177 of these are tribes found east and south of the Shari River,

whose people are pagan or partially Islamized. This is the
shatter-belt area between the Empires of Bornu and those of

[302] Mandara and Bagirmi. The women of Koldi all do their hair in
the Kanuri manner, and the people of Koldi are strongly accul-
tured to the Kanuri. In fact many Kanuri are found living in

[771] Koldi. They are characterized primarily by their lax attitude

[275] towards Islam, and are considered pagan because they brew millet
beer there. No beer is brewed in Geldam proper, so that Kanuri
youths wishing to partake of the local brew are forced to slip

[534] away unseen to Koldi. Drumming can constantly be heard in the
632 evenings from the direction of Koldi. The people of Koldi all

621 have farms of millet in the surrounding area, but in addition
243

• [285]

[463]

[GEIDAM]

632 they specialize in the making of heavy reed mats (sagdis). Eco-
621
[743] nomic specialization along ethnic lines is a common character-
[145] istic of the area.
[463]

632 Several types of economic specialty have been mentioned for
463 differing groups in the Geidam community. Each of these is
563 found localized in a particular section of a ward, where those
who practice that specialty are grouped. Ibos and Yorubas are
small tradesmen in their section of the Hausa ward. Butchers
are almost all Hausas, and are to be found clustered together
in one ward. Bouzous are either water carriers or transporters
who use camels, and each group is found localized in its area.

632 The people of Koldi make sagdis. Among the Kanuri proper, groups
463 specializing in a single economic activity are also found living

[732] together in a single localized neighborhood within one ward. For
[283] example, the blind specialize in the making of rope, and live as
[621] an organized sub-community in their quarter. They have their
[622] own head, called the Kaigama, because he is to the Shehu of the
blind, who lives in Maiduguri, as the real Kaigama is to the
Shehu of Bornu. Other Kanuri craftsmen can be found localized

[261] in particular sections. Tanners and dyers live in specific
[285] areas grouped around the tanning pits and the dying vats. Crafts-
[323] men who make the fine sitting mat (bañi), potters and well-diggers

are localized in their own sections; other types of craftsmen,
[441] however, are dispersed through the town. Many of the tradesmen
[735] are also found clustered in particular neighborhoods. Beggars
are found together, and, as has been noted, the Ajia's kabuna
tend to live in one ward.